



# **iwalk<sup>2005</sup>**

## **INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY OCTOBER 4, 2005**

REPORT TO  
THE MOSCOW SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



## 2005 International Walk to School Day

The Moscow School District's four elementary schools celebrated International Walk to School Day on October 4, 2005. International Walk to School Day is an annual celebration with more than 3 million participants in more than 30 countries around the world. The objective of Walk to School Day is to celebrate and promote walking, bicycling, and other forms of safe, non-motorized transportation to school— as a means to promote health, safety, physical activity, and concern for community and the environment. This is the third year that schools in the Moscow School District have participated in a coordinated Walk to School Day event.

On Walk to School Day morning, community volunteers—including parents, Board members, Moscow City Council members and candidates, and others—handed out “Proud to be Walking” (or “Biking”) stickers to students who walked or bicycled to school. **Based on the number of stickers handed out, we estimate that 385 students walked or bicycled to school on Walk to School Day. This represents 33% of all elementary school students in the district.** Overall participation was down slightly from last year, but two schools--- McDonald and West Park---saw increases in the percentage of students participating. The overall decline in numbers may have been due to rainy, cooler weather this year and difficulties tracking walkers to Russell School. In addition, new busing policies for West Park School may have affected the number of walkers there. Overall, the District and the community should be proud of their success.



School	Walkers	Bikers	Total	% of student body
Lena Whitmore	110	25	135	45%
McDonald	141	29	170	41%
Russell	34	4	38	18%
West Park	38	7	45	18%

Elementary school students were not the only one's walking to school on Walk to School Day morning. Parents were encouraged to walk with their students, and many did. Some teachers also walked.

Two Moscow Junior High School students---Erik Gorman and Josh Hightower---bicycled from Viola! In addition, a volunteer at the intersection of D and Mountain View Roads gave stickers to a half dozen walking junior high school students. We believe this is an indication the Walk to School Day message and celebration have informally moved into the junior high with students who remember the event from their time in elementary school. The Walk to School Day Organizing Committee hopes to encourage a junior high Walk to School Day celebration in the future.



Principals at the elementary schools and their kitchen staffs provided breakfasts for students and parents who participated in the event. Breakfast is a popular part of the Walk to School Day celebration. The principals and their staffs deserve special thanks for their extra effort to support the event and host the breakfasts.

The Walk to School Day Organizing Committee was pleased to have Mark McNeese, State Bicycle/ Pedestrian Coordinator for the Idaho Department of Transportation, join us for the Walk to School Day celebration in Moscow this year. Mark coordinates the Safe Routes to School program (see below) at the state level for communities throughout Idaho. He was impressed with the organization of and participation in Moscow's event.

This year's Walk to School Day received excellent press coverage in the *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*. Reporter Kate Baldwin wrote two stories about Walk to School Day---one in early September, and a front-page article on Walk to School Day itself. We extend special thanks to the *Daily News*, Kate, and Roger Ames, the accompanying photographer.



The Walk to School Day Organizing Committee considers the 2005 event to be a great success. We thank the Board of Trustees, the school principals and staffs, and all the community businesses, organizations, agencies, and volunteers that made it so successful. We look forward to the 2006 Walk to School Day scheduled for next October.

## Safe Routes to School

Thirty years ago, two-thirds of American children walked or biked to school. Today, only one in six does. Concerns about pedestrian safety are among the reasons for the decline in walking and biking to school in recent decades.

Walk to School Day is a one-day event, but children need safe routes for walking and biking to school every day. To promote that goal, many communities across the country are participating in Safe Routes to School (SR2S) programs.



In August 2005, Congress passed a new federal transportation bill that provides funding for SR2S programs. Idaho, through the Idaho Transportation Department, will be receiving at least \$1 million per year in SR2S funds. These funds can be spent on infrastructure projects---such as crosswalks, sidewalks, and bicycling facilities---as well as non-infrastructure projects---such as safety education programs, public awareness campaigns, and enforcement.

The success of Moscow's Walk to School Day demonstrates the District's and community's commitment to providing safe accommodation for *all* modes of transportation that get students to and from school. The District and City are well prepared

for using SR2S funds as they become available. We encourage the District and the City to begin identifying needs and planning for the SR2S projects they wish to implement.

Much more about SR2S programs and resources can be found at the national Walk to School Day website ([www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org)) and the Idaho Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School website ([itd.idaho.gov/bike\\_ped/sr2s](http://itd.idaho.gov/bike_ped/sr2s)).



# 2005 Walk to School Day Organizing Committee

Philip Cook

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## 2005 Walk to School Day Sponsors

Moscow School District #281

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Carole Jones, Principal, Russell Elementary

Bill Marineau, Principal, West Park Elementary

Tony McDonnell, Principal, Lena Whitmore Elementary

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Paradise Creek Bicycles

Paradise Path Task Force

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## 2005 Walk to School Day Community Volunteers

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Thanks to Mark McNeese, State Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator for the Idaho Transportation Department, for the use of his photographs in this report.

**The 2005 Moscow International Walk to School Day Organizing Committee wishes to express our sincerest thanks to all supporters and volunteers. THANK YOU!**